

Obituary – Kathleen James

MAIDENHEAD: A loving wife, mother and grandmother from Maidenhead has died at the age of 88.

Kathleen James, known as Kit to her friends and family, passed away from natural causes in New Bern, North Carolina,

USA. The funeral was held on Monday in New Bern.

The cat-lover was born in Maidenhead on November 15, 1920, and met her husband Richard in the town in 1941 while he was in the Air Transport Auxiliary. Kit served

in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1939 to 1941.

She moved to the USA in 1970 with her husband when he retired from the navy.

Kit loved books, animals and her garden.

She was a board member of the Colonial NC Branch of the English Speaking Union, president and vice president of the New Bern Friends of the Library and the New Bern Bank of the Arts volunteer.

The family woman, the daughter of Florence and Herbert Bennett and sister to Robin and Ted Bennett, leaves behind husband Richard, daughter Anne James Landis and two grandchildren, Kathleen Landis Taylor and James Luther Landis.



FAMILY FIGURE: Kit James.



SOMBRE SOUNDS: Bagpipers add a poignant note to the tributes. Ref:104542-4



HEROES HONOURED: War veterans lead the parade up St Ives Road. Ref:104542-15

Battle of Britain heroes recalled

Maidenhead: Parade and wreath-laying tribute to Few

By Justin Burns
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Speed Read

The heroic RAF aircrews who fought in the Battle of Britain 69 years ago and defeated the German Luftwaffe were honoured at a church service and a wreath-laying on Sunday

WAR veterans and members of the community remembered Battle of Britain heroes on Sunday.

Members of the Royal Air Force (RAF) and air cadets attended a service at St Mary's Church, off Maidenhead High Street, and took part in a street parade, led by the mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead, Cllr Jesse Grey.

Starting out from the church, the procession progressed to St Ives Road, where wreaths were placed at the war memorial outside the town hall.

The stirring sound of bagpipes from the ex-RAF Halton Aircraft Apprentice Pipe Band drifted through the town.

Band side drummer and veteran Derrick White, 86, who was 17 and a member of the RAF air cadets' apprentices during the battle, said: "It is nice to come back and remember old com-

rades and remember what people went through and those that did not survive."

Pipe major Keith Youldon, of Braywick Road, who served with the RAF and fought in Egypt and Cyprus, said: "We are very proud to be part of the day, remembering old heroes who did not survive."

The Battle of Britain was fought in the summer and autumn of 1940. Against overwhelming odds, the RAF defeated the German Luftwaffe, saving the nation from invasion.

The pilots were known as The Few after Churchill's speech in which he said: "Never was so much owed by so many to so few."



REMEMBERING 'THE FEW': Civic leaders took part in the memorial parade. Ref:104542-1



BOROUGH TRIBUTE: Mayor Jesse Grey lays a wreath at the town hall. Ref:104542-9



MARCHING ON: Uniformed groups were represented during the memorial. Ref:104542-7

Footpath leaflets for landowners

MAIDENHEAD: Landowners need to be better at maintaining their public rights of way, a panel heard on Monday.

Leaflets are to be distributed after councillors discussed a report listing problems with dozens of footpaths, such as broken gates and overgrown hedges, at the rights of way and highway licensing panel.

The Advertiser reported last week that rambblers were being confronted by motorbikes, rats and loose barbed wire during their walks.

Cllr Malcolm Beer (Ind, Old Windsor) said: "Could we somehow educate the public and landowners on what they should or should not be doing because the same things are happening all the time? It's a constant thing."

Ian Hurst, principal rights of way officer at the council, said his team would send out leaflets to remind landowners of their duties.

Reunion of classmates

CENTRAL MAIDENHEAD: Former pupils and staff of a school that closed 35 years ago are set to reunite tomorrow night (Friday).

Gordon Road School educated generations of Maidenhead children but shut down as part of a restructuring of secondary schools.

Hotelier and former pupil Paul Lion, who is hosting the reunion at the Elva Lodge Hotel in Castle Hill, said he was expecting "a good spread" of age groups from the former Raymond Road school.

The reunion runs from 7-11pm. Call Paul on 01628 622948 for more information.

Rights tips

MAIDENHEAD: Shoppers can learn about their consumer rights by picking up a leaflet at libraries, council offices and leisure centres.

'Something wrong? Know your consumer rights' advises on legal rights when buying goods and services.

It has been produced by the council's trading standards department.

Sweep plea

MAIDENHEAD: Householders are being urged to make sure chimneys are ready for the winter.

The fire brigade is urging people to install smoke alarms and have chimneys swept before use. There are 6,000 chimney fires across the country every year.

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